GREEN HEDGES SCHOOL
VIENNA, VIRGINIA
HEAD OF SCHOOL
START DATE: JULY 1, 2019
WWW.GREENHEDGES.ORG
Mission
We inspire young people of talent and promise to develop clear values, a desire for wisdom, and an appreciation for all endeavors which broaden the mind and enlighten the spirit.

OVERVIEW

Green Hedges School is seeking a Head of School to lead its coeducational, independent preparatory program for students in grades 1–8 with a Montessori preschool and kindergarten. The School offers a rich educational program that emphasizes excellence in the core subjects that includes instruction in the arts world languages and provides opportunities for community service and experiential learning.

Believing that deep and meaningful learning is question driven, teachers encourage critical thinking and problem solving at every stage of development. The Green Hedges School offers a challenging liberal arts education and integrates creativity throughout its program with the intention of preparing students for a continued rigorous education upon graduation.

The next Head of School will join a distinguished and experienced faculty which strives to instill a healthy respect for the traditions upon which the foundation of Green Hedges was built. Likewise, the next Head of School will govern a community that prioritizes a broad and deep education and will work closely with a dedicated Board of Trustees and a Board Chair, Heidi Everett, all of whom demonstrate a deep respect for, and dedication to the School.

The next Head will inherit a rich academic program which is routinely updated and reviewed to ensure current best practices are in use. The Head will engage in a warm, nurturing environment where student input is both respected and sought after and teachers work to tailor instruction to provide both rigor and remediation as needed. Further, the next Head will have a focus on marketing, admissions, and strategic planning, and will work closely with the administrative team.
**SCHOOL HISTORY**

Green Hedges School was founded in 1942 by Frances Kilmer, daughter of Impressionist painter Frederick Frieseke, and Kenton Kilmer, son of famous American poet Joyce Kilmer. The Kilmers sought to provide a positive learning environment free from prejudice and an enriched curriculum that included the best in all the arts, a global exposure to history, and a commitment to citizenship and character. Green Hedges began in the Kilmer’s Arlington home with ten students and one full-time teacher.

By 1955, the School had grown to 60 students. To accommodate the Kilmer family and the growing school, both moved to a property in the historic neighborhood of Windover Heights in Vienna, Virginia. That same year, the School expanded to eight grades.

Fifty years later, with Green Hedges expanded and established in Vienna, Frances expressed her guiding sentiments. “One of our operating principles, perhaps the main one, may be called the enjoyment of learning,” she said. “Living next door to the school, as we do, we have had the pleasure each morning of seeing the children running, skipping, or dancing on their way into the school buildings. Many of them are early each day; they’re in no hurry, just happy and eager. It is our endeavor to encourage and develop this spirit in each student so that he or she will approach the tasks and problems of life with the same eagerness.”
THE SCHOOL

Today, parents and community leaders serve on the Board of Trustees, and the School enrolls no more than 190 students. For over 75 years, Green Hedges School has remained true to the founding principles of its founders to provide a school experience that emphasizes core academic subjects, world languages, the arts, and athletics, while supporting the healthy intellectual, social, and emotional growth of its students.

Thanks to Green Hedges’ size, the entire community knows every student well. Because teachers understand how each student learns, academic growth is maximized. Because children interact with all, social growth is enhanced. Steeped in collaboration and kindness, the atmosphere is wholesome, unpressured, authentic, and friendly. Students and parents are not only warmly welcomed; they’re involved, creating a school environment that enriches and is enriched by all.

Green Hedges reevaluates its Strategic Plan on a regular basis, being mindful that it must be ever vigilant in doing its best to provide students with the educational excellence and nurturing environment the School has become known for since its founding in 1942. Pursuant to the School’s current Strategic Plan adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2014, the School continues to complete the objectives related to Program, Faculty, Communications, and Resources. In addition to preparing the 2020 Strategic Plan, the School is engaged in continual self-evaluation as part of its accreditation process with the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) which has initiated it five-year accreditation review of Green Hedges to be completed in April of 2020. The new Head will be intimately involved in the development of the new Strategic Plan and in the VAIS accreditation process.
ACADEMICS

Green Hedges School provides a dynamic environment in which preschool, elementary, and middle school children thrive. Its robust academic curriculum emphasizes excellence in the core subjects while exploring the arts and languages and creating an appreciation for cultural and religious diversity. The outstanding faculty prepare children for success at the next level of schooling, and teach them to be lifelong learners, ask questions, take risks, respect others, and be resilient in an increasingly complex world. Area secondary schools know the School’s graduates to be confident, accomplished, intellectually curious, and kind.

Believing it is important to integrate technology thoughtfully, intentionally, and in a balanced way, the School is a 1:1 iPad school in Grades 3-8. MacBooks are also available for more involved work requiring faster computing and greater memory. Green Hedges carefully examines tech tools and considers whether they might improve or enhance teaching and learning. At the same time, the School supports students in developing healthy, functional relationships with technology by also practicing mindful awareness of self and surroundings and teaching critical thinking skills.

Montessori Preschool and Kindergarten
One of the oldest and most respected Montessori programs in Northern Virginia, Green Hedges’ rich program builds on a child’s innate desire to figure out how things work and to achieve a sense of mastery in learning. Affiliated with the American Montessori Society (AMS), the Montessori program gives children the freedom to move and explore activities and materials that are designed to engage them academically, socially, and emotionally, producing lifelong learners who enjoy using their minds.
The program for these youngest learners includes introduction and enrichment in language arts, math, cultural studies, French, sensorial and practical life, performing arts, physical education and athletics, and library. Students at this level benefit from the School’s resources that include a full library, and gardens.

Montessori-trained teachers guide students’ work, fostering independence by allowing children the freedom to choose lessons, explore, and repeat those lessons within the guidelines set by the teacher. Teachers monitor the progression of skill work and keep track of each child’s progress. Montessori and Lower School faculty work closely together to ensure that Montessori students seamlessly transition to the next level. Children leave the Montessori program with a strong academic and social foundation.

**Lower School**

Grades 1 through 5 are exciting years at Green Hedges as students grow into fluent readers, confident mathematicians, and inquisitive scientists. Social, emotional, and academic growth is fostered through a curriculum that encourages critical and creative thinking, ethical judgment and action, intercultural fluency, and local and global citizenship. The core of literacy, math, social studies, and science is complemented through specialty classes in French, art, music, technology, library, and physical education.

Students in the Lower School delve into a highly personalized, inquiry-based program under the tutelage of talented teachers who honor and cherish childhood. There is one class per grade; each allows up to 18 students. Grades 1 through 3 are team taught with two full-time teachers in each classroom, creating a low teacher-to-student ratio and ensuring that every child is an active participant in his/her own learning. The faculty cultivates in each student a passion for discovery that carries them through their entire lives.
Middle School

By the time students reach Middle School for Grades 6 through 8, they are well-known by faculty, staff, and their fellow students. Students at this level have opportunities and responsibilities that broaden their view of themselves, their futures, and the world. Small classes ensure that the individual interests and learning style of each student are understood and appreciated.

The rigorous curriculum is delivered with appropriate amounts of support and challenge and seamlessly incorporates organizational skills. In Middle School, the program shifts to a departmental structure and grade-level advisor groups. Academic subjects include math, science, humanities (language arts and social studies), studio and performing arts, Spanish or French, and Latin. Beginning in Grade 4, students take overnight trips to sites where the focus is on learning by doing. In the spring, each Middle School grade explores an East Coast city. There are also optional trips during spring break, most recently to Belize, Costa Rica, and Quebec City.

A cohesive community spirit in the Middle School allows students to feel safe taking risks and trying new endeavors. Near the start of the year, the Middle School faculty and students enjoy an overnight outdoor-ed excursion. Cooking meals together and team-building activities build a cohesive foundation for the coming year and allow Grade 6 and other new students to feel part of a greater whole. Social activities continue through the year and include special interest clubs such as robotics, school-sponsored parties, dances, and grade-specific trips.


**Arts and Athletics**

Drama, visual arts, and music have always been a core part of the Green Hedges School curriculum. Music instruction begins at age three, and at the end of their Grade 3 year, each student chooses an instrument for concert band instruction in subsequent years. All students participate in concert band through Grade 8, and in Middle School students have the option of joining the GHS Jazz Band. Drama productions are part of each student’s Green Hedges experience. Beginning in Grade 1 every student is part of drama instruction that culminates in performing a play for the entire School. The Rice Arts Center is dedicated to studio art, where students work with a rich selection of mediums as they learn drawing, painting, and ceramics, as well as art history and aspects of working creatively.

Green Hedges is a member of the ABC Athletic League of Greater Washington which is comprised of seven area independent schools. While team sports are optional at Green Hedges, all students are encouraged to participate, regardless of experience or level of ability. The interscholastic athletic program for Middle School students includes soccer, cross country, basketball, and tennis.
**STUDENT LIFE**

At Green Hedges School, each student actively engages in all aspects of the school experience, including collaborating with the peers across grade levels, community service, leadership, and community events and celebrations.

From Stewardship Week, when all students help with campus gardening, to Grade 3’s weekly support to GHS recycling, to various school-wide food drives, community service is part of the curriculum for all students.

Providing frequent opportunities for each student to lead and to be led is part of the Green Hedges fabric. Leadership experience and instruction begins in Montessori where the five-year-olds understand that they are role models for their younger classmates. Opportunities continue at many points across grade levels where older students present to and mentor younger students on specific projects at various times during the year.

The community celebrates together at many points throughout each school year. At Opening and Closing Assemblies, special sessions begin and end the week with a school-wide gathering showcasing class projects and recognizing student achievements. International Week celebrates the School’s ethnic and cultural diversity and includes a colorful and energetic Parade of Nations, an International Feast for each classroom, student art displays, and more. Other activities for the community include the book fair, the annual Parents’ Association Bingo Night, and Founders and Grandparents Day.
Vienna, Virginia

Green Hedges’ five-acre campus is nestled in the Historic Windover Heights residential neighborhood of Vienna, Virginia. South of the Potomac River and west of Washington, D.C., Vienna is a town in Northern Virginia with a population of around 16,000. In August 2013, CNNMoney and Money magazine ranked Vienna third on its list of the 100 best places to live in the United States, and in 2018, for the second year in a row, Vienna claimed the top spot in the website HomeSnacks’ Best Places to Live in Virginia ranking. The small-town feel comes with access to all the D.C. metro area attractions.

Unlike other cookie-cutter suburbs in Northern Virginia, Vienna offers walkability, a historic center, and unique businesses and homegrown eateries that give it an identity all its own. A town green anchors the community and serves as a gathering spot for local events, like the Concerts on the Green summer series. Highlights of Vienna include a downtown with many small businesses, a Washington Metro station just south of the town, and a portion of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park hiker/biker trail cutting through the center of the town. Tysons Corner, a residential, commercial, and shopping district, is nearby, as is Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts which holds performances ranging from pop to country to orchestra and opera and includes the Wolf Trap’s Children’s Theatre-in-the-Woods. The Meadowlark Botanical Garden and Roer’s Zoofari are popular attractions for visitors and residents alike.
**OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

- Appreciation for engaging and fostering the Green Hedges community.
- Promotion and marketing of the Green Hedges program in greater Vienna, VA area.
- New enrollment leadership skills as well as retention of current student body.
- Partnerships with members of the greater Vienna community.
- Comprehension of the matriculation relationship between the Montessori program, lower school, and middle school grades.
- Partnering with an engaged and committed Board of Trustees.

**DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Capable, collaborative, and proven leader ready to guide the Green Hedges community.
- Exceptional communicator and listener.
- Strategic thinker and facilitator addressing current trends and challenges in independent schools.
- Educator at heart and established network in the independent school industry.
- Proven record of managing a group successfully and with purpose.
- Innovative approach to problem-solving with business acumen.
- Visionary leader who champions equality and inclusivity.
- Commitment to an active role in a comprehensive marketing program to bolster enrollment, fundraising, and secondary school placement in a competitive metropolitan area.

**TO APPLY**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this position
- A current résumé
- A one-page statement of educational philosophy and practice
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate’s permission) to:

Rice Bryan  
Search Consultant  
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